

In the Preface to *Industrial Democracy*, they make an earnest plea for the need of some endowment for social research—

"What is not generally recognised is that scientific investigation, in the field of sociology as in other departments of knowledge, requires, not only competent investigators, but a considerable expenditure. Practically no provision exists in this country for the endowment or support from public funds of any kind of sociological investigation. It is, accordingly, impossible at present to make any considerable progress even with enquiries of pressing urgency. At present, in London, the wealthiest city in the world, and the best of all fields for sociological investigation, the sum total of all endowments for this purpose does not reach £100 a year."

They keenly felt this need, felt that after a "whole century of marvellous discovery in physical and biological science/* the study "of the conditions of human grouping and co-operation" had fallen lamentably behind, although it was of equal, perhaps of even greater importance. With eminently characteristic courage, they made a start. The modest rooms in the Adelphi were taken for the rest, one cannot do better than quote the account he wrote of the matter.

"Mr W A S Hewins had the courage to come from Oxford to undertake the head ship of a non-existent institution without financial guarantee, and for seven years he proved not only an inspiring lecturer, but also an excellent pioneer organiser, until he elected to transfer his abilities to the field of fiscal politics. Gradually he gathered around him some notable (but until then insufficiently appreciated) teachers, such as Professor Graham Wallas, Edwin Gannan, and A L Bowley, and enrolled students, first by the dozen, and very slowly by the hundred, at first mainly those who could attend

only in the evening, these very gradually becoming subordinated to the full-time day students. The School slowly made itself known to economists—it may at most be said in the United States and in Central Europe before it was discovered by Great Britain—as dealing with economic and political science on the basis, less of abstract and deductive theory, than of ascertained facts, not exclusively, or even mainly, of the historic past, but largely those of contemporary public administration and of business' itself.